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For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

The following Prospectus has been published by a Society in London, and a subscription entered into to promote the benevolent purpose.

SOCIETY IN LONDON FOR THE DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE, RESPECTING THE PUNISHMENT OF DEATH, AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF PRISON DISCIPLINE.

TRUE it is, that we have found by woful experience, that it is not frequent punishment that doth prevent like offences; those offences are often committed that are often punished: for the frequency of the punishment makes it so familiar that it is not feared. For example, what a lamentable case it is, to see so many christian men and women strangled on that cursed tree of the gallows, insomuch as if in a large field a man might see together all the Christians, that but in one year, throughout England, come to that untimely and ignominious death, if there were any spark of grace or charity in him, it would make his heart to bleed for pity and compassion.

"But the consideration of this preventing justice were worthy of the wisdom of parliament, and in the mean time expert and wise men to make preparation for the same, as the text saith, *ut benedicat eis dominus*. Blessed shall he be that layeth the first stone of the building, more blessed that proceeds in it, most of all that finisheth it, to the glory of God, and the honour of our king and nation."

Such were the sentiments expressed two centuries ago by Sir Edward Coke.

In a pamphlet published by William Bradford, one of the judges of the supreme court of Pennsylvania, it appears, that the opinions of intelligent men of former times, have, in our time, been safely adopted. The immediate cause of this advancement of kind feeling is explained by him in the following extract.

"The distresses of the prisoners, and the disorders in the prisons of Philadelphia had long engaged the sympathetic attention of the inhabitants. Occasional relief was often afforded;

but the magnitude of the sufferings and disorders at length induced the attempt of forming a society under the title of the *Philadelphia Society for alleviating the miseries of public prisons*. It soon became large and respectable, and from subscriptions and donations, early possessed funds equal to its object."

Most of the members of this society lived to see their exertions blessed by the abolition of capital punishment in Pennsylvania, for all crimes except murder, and by the establishment of a system of prison discipline which has reclaimed, and is reclaiming, thousands of our misguided fellow creatures.

A society has lately been formed in London '*for the diffusion of knowledge respecting the punishment of death, and the improvement of prison discipline.*'"

This society has submitted to public consideration one volume containing the opinions of different authors upon the punishment of death: there is an additional volume in the press; with a third volume on prisons. The circulation of knowledge upon these subjects greatly depends on the funds of the society. These funds, hitherto raised by contributions from each member, are necessarily inadequate to the importance of the object: but, confident that good must result from inquiry, the society hope for the sympathy and assistance of the benevolent, of all "*who desire not the death of a sinner, but rather that he shall turn from his wickedness and live.*"

In London and Middlesex, between the first of January 1749, and the thirty-first of December 1800, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-four persons suffered death.

1749	44	1760	10
1750	56	1761	17
1751	63	1762	15
1752	47	1763	32
1753	41	1764	31
1754	34	1765	26
1755	21	1766	20
1756	13	1767	22
1757	26	1768	27
1758	20	1769	24
1759	6	1770	40

1771	34	1787	92
1772	37	1788	25
1773	32	1789	26
1774	32	1790	33
1775	46	1791	34
1776	38	1792	24
1777	32	1793	16
1778	33	1794	7
1779	23	1795	22
1780	30	1796	22
1781	40	1797	19
1782	45	1798	19
1783	53	1799	24
1784	56	1800	19
1785	97		
1786	50	Total	1724

Offences executed for in half a century.

Murder	131
Shooting at persons	5
Rape	4
Unnatural crime	1
Burglary and house-breaking	332
High-way robbery	420
Shop-lifting, &c.	479
Horse-stealing	39
Stealing in dwelling-houses	5
Stealing letters	9
Defrauding creditors	3
Robbery on the Thames	8
Piracy	10
Forgery	134
Coining	57
Personating to obtain prize money	11
Rioting	26
Returning from transportation	40

Total 1724

The work alluded to, as being already published by the society, is entitled, "The opinions of different authors upon the punishment of death, selected by Basil Montagu, esq. of Lincoln's Inn, and contains observations on this subject, from the pens of Doctor Johnson, Sir W. Blackstone, Marquis of Beccaria, Sir Thomas Moore, Lord Bacon, P. Colquhoun, L.L.D. Pastoret Montesquieu, Dr. Franklin, Bentham, Howard, Bradford, Turner and others. It does not adduce evidence or reasoning only on one side, but brings forward opposite opinions to excite inquiry, and obtain information upon this important subject.

Any original communications or references upon this subject will be

thankfully received, directed to Joseph Lancaster, Borough road, London.

To the Proprietors of the Beifust Magazine.

HENRY AND JULIA, A TALE FROM REAL LIFE.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM one of your constant readers, who have been for some time very much surprized that you seldom or never introduce the subject of love into your Magazine, therefore I am about to give you a little story which you are welcome to insert, if you like it. It is not sentimental, nor in the usual style and costume of novels; in this respect it differs from them, that it may be called REAL LIFE.

Henry and Julia were inhabitants of the same village; Henry spent the early part of his youth at school, after which he came home for a few days to see his parents, and Julia made such good use of her time, that she fell in love with him before he went apprentice, which was in less than a fortnight: for seven long years was he bound, and only came to see his friends twice during that time. Julia discovered new graces in his face and person, and deportment every time, but could not be sure whether he loved her or not. At length he settled at home, and established a chandler's shop. In the morning Henry was busy melting tallow, in the day he had a thousand things to do, and when still evening came on he was forced to stand behind the counter, selling candle after candle. "Ah!" thought Julia, "how unlike a lover is this! he might at least come see me in the evenings, or walk out by moonlight, but there he stands receiving that abominable money, and snuffing up that odious smell: his intellect will be stupified, and his tender passions deadened." In truth Henry was all this time looking forward to the time when his halfpence would amount to shillings, his shillings to pounds, and his pounds to hundred pounds, in order that he might maintain a family, and indeed he thought of no other help-mate but Julia. "Ah, if Julia knew this, and she shall know it in time." If Henry had sold any thing but candles, Julia might have